Tzusuki wa Mata Ashita

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 1 Chapter 2

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闇はあやなし

The Darkness is Futile

MOM!
WAIT I'M PUTTING THE CARDBOARD OUT
AH!
DINNER!
NO! A CAT!
MOM I TOLD YOU TO COME AND EAT.
STEP STEP STEP
WAH!
STRETCH

HEY THE CURRY'S GETTING COLD.
WHAT? A CAT?
IT'S NOT A STRAY.
IT'S THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR'S CAT.
EH?
IT'S THE STRAY FROM YESTERDAY.
YUP.
THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR... YOU MEAN FUJISAWA-SAN?
SPEAKING OF FUJISAWA-SAN,
I HEARD HE LOST HIS WIFE JUST LAST YEAR.
THEY STILL HAVE LITTLE KIDS
AND THEY'RE STILL SO YOUNG...
AH...

THAT LITTLE GIRL FROM THAT TIME...
SHE LOOKED AT ME
AND SAID "MOMMY"...
YESTERDAY, WE WENT TO GREET OUR NEW NEIGHBORS RIGHT?
In the middle of it, you went back remember?
WHAT'S WRONG WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY YELL OUT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HONEY
NOTHING JUST THE CAT
BUT WHEN I LOOKED BACK, THERE WAS NO ONE THERE!
...DON'T SAY SUCH SCARY THINGS!
FOR THE WHOLE TIME,
IT'S BEEN STARING AT THE WALL

MAYBE THERE'S A BUG
BUG?
WHERE?
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BUG THERE
THEN...
stare
WHAT?
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
IS THERE SOMETHING OVER THERE?
NOOOOOOO
BUT CATS ARE CUTE
THIS IS WHY I HATE CATS...!
AH... JUST BECAUSE OF THAT, MY FATIGUE SUDDENLY INCREASED
OKAY... DINNER, DINNER
TONIGHT, LET'S GO TO SLEEP EARLY SAHO STARTS SCHOOL TOMORROW TOO
AH
IT LEFT

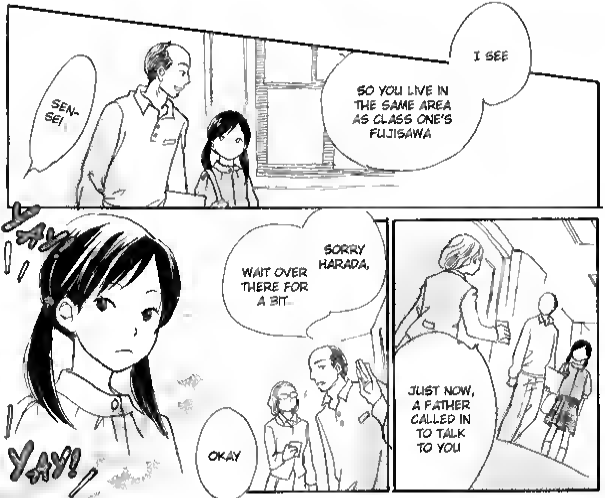
BUT I'VE GOTTEN MORE FAMILIAR WITH THIS KIND OF SCHOOL
THE SCHOOL BEFORE THIS WAS NICE WITH A MORE MODERN LOOK
THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF US
I DIDN'T LIKE BEING IN THE STAFF ROOM FROM THE START
AND IT'S GOOD TO SEND YOU OFF HERE
MORN-ING
MORN-ING
AH

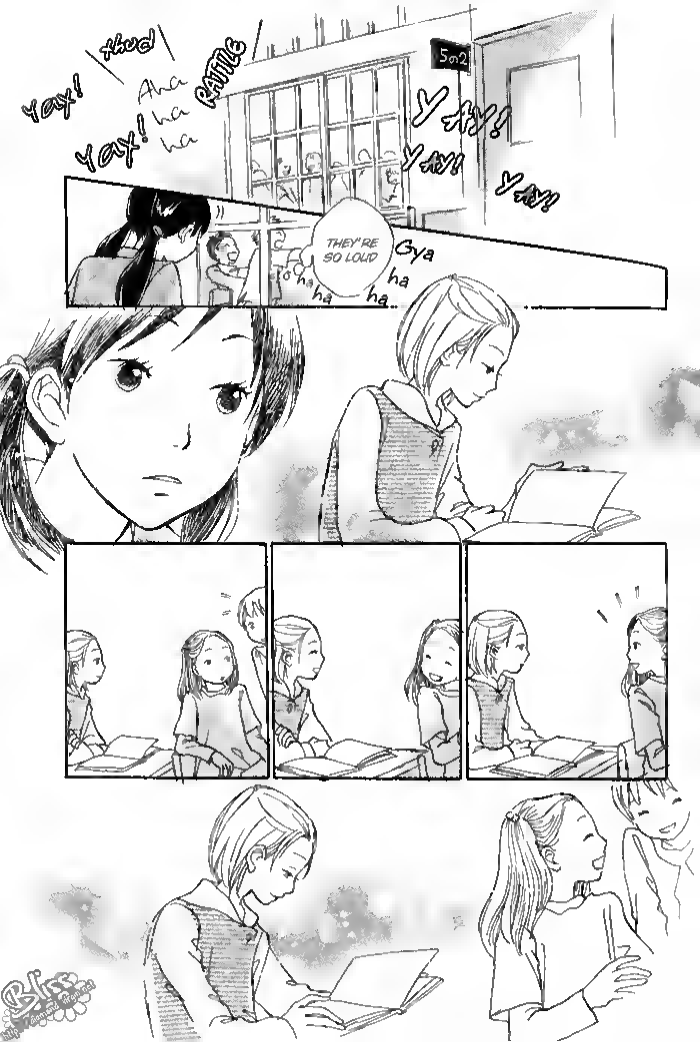
A first grader's face
Onii-chan
BUT DIFFERENT CLASSES
WE'RE BOTH IN FIFTH GRADE
AH, FUJISAWA-SAN'S...
MY LITTLE SISTER'S IN FIRST GRADE
AH HEY, FUJISAWA-KUN
YES?
OH NO, THIS TIME ALREADY
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK
MOM?
MOM!
This is embarrassing!
Understood
SURE
COULD YOU GO BACK HOME WITH SAHO TODAY?
THIS MORNING WE CAME BY CAR, SO I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HER NOT KNOWING THE WAY BACK

I'LL GO BACK BY MYSELF SO
BYE!
AH...!
HARUKA'S WALKING WITH A GIRL!
Couple!
GOOD MORNING... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS YELLING ABOUT?
GOOD MORNING
It's a couple! It's a couple! It's a couple!
It's a couple!
A couple!
Is that your girlfriend, Fujisawa?
When you walk side by side, you look like a couple.
SAHO HADARA.
THAT'S HER NAME
SHE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT
AH
EH? WHO'S THIS HERE?

RIGHT?
SHE'S OUR NEIGHBOR
HARADA!
"SKIN AND STUFF"*?
SHE STILL GETS HER HIRAGANA MIXED UP SO SOMETIMES SHE SAYS THIS KIND OF STUFF...
HARUKA'S GIRL-FRIEND,
SHE'S CALLED HADARA
Aha ha ha ha ha!
WHAT A WEIRD NAME!
It's the kanji, in reverse! How did it turn into "Ha-rada"?
Ha-ra-da.
Ha-ra-da.
HADARA
HARADA
*What hadara (Saha's name mispronounced) means
IS IT SAYA'S FAULT?
IS SAYA BAD?
NO, SAYA'S NOT BAD.
S-SORRY...
Hadaradara!
tha~ da ra~!
tha~ da ra~!
SHUT UP YOU STUPID BOYS...

Hey Hadara what class are you going to?
It's Harada...
NOPE
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE STAFF ROOM.
DO YOU GO TO CLASS NOW?
HOW WOULD I KNOW
come to our class, okay? Hadara
Ha~
Ida
Ha~!!


I SEE
SO YOU LIVE IN THE SAME AREA AS CLASS ONE'S FUJISAWA
SEN-SEI
SORRY HARADA,
WAIT OVER THERE FOR A BIT.
JUST NOW, A FATHER CALLED IN TO TALK TO YOU
OKAY
YAY!
YAY!


yay!
yay!
Aha ha ha
RATTLE
5 of 2
THEY'RE SO LOUD
Gya ha ha ha..

slide
STAND UP.
rattle
rattle
BOW
rattle
SORRY
MADE YOU WAIT. HUH? WELL, LET'S GO.
GOOD MORNING.
YES, G'MORNING.
chatter
chatter
rattle
SIT DOWN.
rattle
SHE IS
SAHO HARADA-SAN
Saho Harada
SO,
FROM TODAY ON, SHE WILL BECOME OUR YEAR 5 CLASS 2'S NEW FRIEND.

You're in our class!
YAY!
HA.. DARA..
NICE TO MEET YOU...
I'M HARADA
Ha-v dara-v
WOW. YOU'RE POPULAR ALREADY
HARADA, HOW'S YOUR EYE-SIGHT?
IT'S NOT BAD
THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM IN THAT SEAT, RIGHT?
THAT EMPTY SEAT OVER THERE
AH
THE SEAT NEXT TO YOU IS AYASE'S SHE'S IN THE CLASS COMMITTEE SO
IF YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING ASK AYASE
I'M KOTOMI AYASE
NICE TO MEET YOU

NICE TO MEET YOU
AYASE,
JUST FOR TODAY, SHARE TEXTBOOKS WITH HARADA.
YES
LET'S ATTACH OUR DESKS
rattle
THANKS
HARADA-SAN
HAVE WE MEET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
EH?
I DON'T THINK SO...
NO.
?
I GUESS SO
ding
dong

HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO HOME TOGETHER?
ME TOO
Kya!
Kya!
WERE YOU IN ANY CLUBS AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL?
HEY, HEY, WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE, HARADA-SAN?
UM, SAKURAGI STREET? I think...
TODAY IS...
FUJISAWA-KUN
THE HUNCH THAT I HAD WHEN I FIRST MET HARADA-SAN
THAT FEELING IS.
AH
THAT'S RIGHT
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED
The Harada call...
SINCE I COULD HEAR IT FROM MY CLASSROOM

BECAUSE YOU LOOK ALIKE
HARADA-SAN AND FUJISA-WA-KUN
Eh...?
AREN'T YOU GUYS LIKE NON BLOOD-RELATED TWINS!?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THEY DO LOOK ALIKE...
Kya~! It's like a drama!
Did they just say non-blood-related twins?
who knows?
SO YOU'RE GOING HOME WITH FUJISA-WA-KUN?
YEP
MY MOM ASKED HIM OUT OF NO-WHERE
Cleaning Tools
pat
ding
dong

SINCE WE'RE IN THE SAME DIRECTION IS IT OKAY IF I GO WITH YOU GUYS?
I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU SOME MORE TOO
OF COURSE
AYASE TOO?
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I WALKED HOME WITH YOU HASN'T IT FUJISAWA-KUN?
YEAH, IT HAS.
KANAZAWA SENSEI I DON'T SEE HIM LATELY EITHER
YEAH, BUT IT'S ONLY A LITTLE BREAK.
HE QUIT, DIDN'T HE?
AH.
BUT IF AYASE IS GOING WITH US TOO, THEN YOU TWO GO AHEAD FIRST.
WHY?
I HAVE TO MEET UP WITH SAYA AT THE CHILDREN'S HALL.
THEN
WE'LL GO FIRST, RIGHT?
YUI.

I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU SOON
OKAY WE'LL WALK SLOWLY
SO THAT ROUTE?
I THINK IT'S BEST TO GO BACK STRAIGHT
HARADA-SAN, DON'T GO IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS TODAY.
CHILDREN'S HALL?
SEE, THE FIRST GRADERS ARE LET OUT EARLY, RIGHT?
SO SAYA-CHAN'S WAITING FOR HER ONII-CHAN AT THE CHILDREN'S HALL
YEAH, IT'S RIGHT IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL
UM...
WE WERE TOGETHER SINCE NURSERY SCHOOL.
UNTIL LAST YEAR, I WAS ALWAYS IN THE SAME CLASS AS FUJISAWA-KUN.
I SEE.
SINCE THEIR MOM PASSED AWAY

I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LIKE THE BOY NEXT DOOR
WHEN I SAW YOU IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
EH?
LIKE FUJISA-WA-KUN? ME?
WEIRD HUH? I WONDER WHY I THOUGHT THAT. .
chuckle
WE BOTH THOUGHT "YOU LOOK LIKE FUJISAWA-KUN" TO EACH OTHER.
IT'S KINDA FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT
TYPICAL ENTRANCE
chuckle
chuckle
chuckle
chuckle
? ?
SAYA-CHAN!
YAY! IT'S KOTOMI-CHAN!

I'M HOME.
WEL-COME BACK
HOW DYOU FEEL ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?
MM. IT WAS OKAY...
ISH.
WOW YOU CLEARED MOST OF THE STUFF AWAY
The cardboard's all gone.
WASH YOUR HANDS AND COME HERE
I MADE YOU A SNACK
HEY, DAD
"YAMI WA YAMANASHI"
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THE DARK-NESS IS MOUNTAIN-PEAR"?

*She is remembering it wrong

YEAH
THE NIGHT OF THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY WHILE I WAS ON MY WAY TO GET SOME MILK
I SMELLED A NICE FRAGRANCE FROM SOME FLOWERS
AND FUJISAWA-KUN SAID "YAMI WA YAMANASHI"
*Corrected version. Literally "darkness is futile"
AH...
THAT'S "YAMI WA AYANASHI"*
PROVERB?
IT'S A POEM FROM A LONG TIME AGO
"FUTILE IS THE DARKNESS ON THIS SPRING NIGHT"
"IT HIDES THE SAKURA BLOSSOMS FROM THE EYE, BUT CANNOT CONCEAL THEIR SCENT."
I think it goes like that.
"FUTILE"?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS BASICALLY
EVEN IF THE SAKURA BLOSSOMS CANNOT BE SEEN IN THE DARKNESS
THEIR SCENT CANNOT BE HIDDEN

A LONG TIME AGO,
THERE WAS NO ELECTRICITY AND THE POPULATION WAS SMALL
THAT'S RIGHT
NO MEANING, NO ASSUMPTIONS
In the darkness of this spring night...
IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MOONLESS NIGHTS. I'M SURE IT WAS DEEP
I don't know if something was hidden...
Even the thick darkness cannot hide...
BUT TO THINK THAT THAT JAPANESE STYLE POETRY CAME OUT OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT
FUJISAWA-KUN SURE IS AN INTERESTING KID

The flower's aroma...
YEP.
THE SCHOOL I WENT TO BEFORE HAD THAT TOO
THAT KIND OF KID
FROM THE CLASSROOM WINDOW, HE'D LOOK UP AT THE SKY
AND DURING BREAK HE'D READ A BOOK BY HIMSELF, THAT KIND OF KID
MORE THAN BEING CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD IN CLASS...
HE LOOKED LIKE A CAT WITH ITS OWN SPIRIT
IN THE CAT'S EYES
IT SEES SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE SEE

SOMETIMES I UNDER-STAND TOO
BUT YOU KNOW
IN THE CENTER OF A LOUD AND LIVELY CLASS-ROOM,
AH...
LIKE RIGHT NOW THIS KID IS HAVING AN ADVENTURE.
THEY'RE HOLDING A TIME FOR JUST THEM-SELVES
THAT KID IS IN THEIR OWN TIME

YUP, I LOVE DAD'S COOKING
ARE THE PANCAKES YUMMY?
It's better than Mom's
Pat
ALRIGHT, IF YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR SNACK HOW ABOUT WE GO SHOPPING?
IF WE'RE GOING TO THE SUPER-MARKET I KNOW A SHORT-CUT
THAT TIME WITH FUJISA-WA-KUN
HUH? FUJISAWA-KUN WHERE'S THE STUFF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY?
IT LOOKS LIKE I FORGOT MY WALLET
THEN YOU WANNA GO TOGETHER? I WAS GOING THERE TOO

DADDY, WELCOME BACK!
YOU'RE EARLY.
YEAH, SINCE I CAME HOME DIRECTLY TODAY.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING
slam
HELLO
I'M HARADA FROM NEXT DOOR.
AH... NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M FUJISAWA.
THE OTHER DAY YOUR WIFE CAME TO VISIT, BUT I WASN'T THERE SO...
AH ME TOO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MY GREETING IS LATE...
EVERYONE'S ALWAYS LEAVING IT UP TO THE WIFE.

AH
?
Us-too... Please look out for us
Please look out for us from here on
EH...?
THERE WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING BEHIND US!
AS I THOUGHT FULL-TIME HOUSE-HUSBANDS ARE STRANGE
That reac-tion...
...WASN'T THAT KINDA WEIRD?
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG.
Let's hurry an finish up our shop-ping before it gets dark.

*Referring to their mother
THAT WAS REALLY SURPRISING
THAT SOMEONE LOOKS LIKE MOM.
COULD IT BE
THAT SHE TAKES AFTER DAD?
The neighbor's*
*Referring to the dad
Rawr!
Ah...
Uwah...
THAT'S SO DIRTY GEEZ!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SNEEZE DO IT IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!
Ah
Ah-choo!